

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2003

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NEW NORTH DAKOTA BLUE BOOK PORTRAYS CHARACTER OF STATE PEOPLE THROUGH ARTISTS, POETS AND WRITERS

Bismarck, ND – The character of North Dakota's people is portrayed through state writers, poets and artists in the feature chapter of the *2003-2005 North Dakota Blue Book*. Secretary of State Al Jaeger presented the first copy to Lt. Gov. Jack Dalrymple at a ceremony held at the State Capitol on October 23rd.

This is the 25th edition of the North Dakota Blue Book. Since 1995, it has been published biennially by the Secretary of State's office in cooperation with over 70 volunteers who were also recognized at the ceremony. The new edition has 12 chapters and over 600 pages, which include an almanac of North Dakota's interesting facts and statistics; biographies of all state elected officials and legislators; and contact information for all state departments, agencies, judges and the Congressional delegation.

Other highlights of this edition are photos and profiles of all past and present state tribal leaders and North Dakota Supreme Court justices as well as specific chapters about elections, education, water resources, agriculture, and commerce.

"The North Dakota Blue Book provides information not readily found in other reference materials," says Jaeger. "Both casual readers and serious students of North Dakota's local and state government, its resources and its culture will find the North Dakota Blue Book interesting and useful."

The feature chapter is entitled "Ever and Always," and pays tribute to the late Bismarck poet and artist Clell Gannon. Six other featured poets are those who have been recognized by the State Legislature as poets laureate. The chapter also profiles work by eight North Dakota artists who have received fellowships from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. And, short essays contributed by 26 writers and journalists about why they chose to make North Dakota their home.

The poets are: **Bismarck:** the late James W. Foley; **Minot:** the late Corbin A. Waldron; **Fargo:** the late Henry R. Martinson; **Grafton:** the late Lydia O. Jackson; **Dickinson:** North Dakota's Centennial Poet David R. Solheim; and **Mott:** Larry Woiwode, the state's current poet laureate.

The artists are: **Bismarck:** Robert Matz; **Fargo:** Kent Kapplinger and Dan Koeck; **Grand Forks:** Joy Flynn and Patrick Luber; **Minot:** Linda Olson and Walter Piehl; and **Valley City:** Linda Whitney.

The writers are: **Ashley:** Tony Bender; **Bismarck:** Ken Rogers, Everett Albers, Andrea Winkjer Collin, Janelle Masters and Deena Winter; **Cavalier:** Rose Trenbeath; **Crosby:** Cecile Wehrman and Steve Andrist; **Fargo:** Catherine McMullen, Tom Isern and Sheldon Green; **Garrison:** Angela Kolden; **Grand Forks:** Robin Silverman, Marilyn Hagerty, Fr. William Sherman and Lloyd Omdahl; **Jamestown:** Toni Pirkli; **Mandan:** Al Gustin; **Medora:** Doug Ellison; **Minot:** Eloise Ogden; **New Town:** Marilyn Hudson; **Pick**

City: JoAnn Winistorfer; **Selfridge:** Dean Meyer; **Valley City:** Rod “Reel” Schluter; and **Washburn:** Arnold Lahren.

The *2003-2005 North Dakota Blue Book* sells for \$20 each and can be purchased at the Museum Store at the North Dakota Heritage Center, 701-328-2666.

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For more information or to schedule an interview with Secretary of State Al Jaeger, contact Kim Shaw at 701-328-3664.